

## Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL OSLO 3845

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NA, NO, NATO  
SUBJ: NORWEGIANS DECIDE NOT TO INVITE DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS TO EXERCISE TEAMWORK

REFS: (A) USNATO 4321, (B) OSLO 3738, (C) STATE 183081

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL VIBE AND NATO DIVISION CHIEF FREIHOW THAT NORWEGIANS HAVE CONSIDERED US SUGGESTION THAT THE INVITE DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS TO ATTEND EXERCISE TEAMWORK AND HAVE DECIDED THEY CANNOT EXTEND THE INVITATIONS. THEY SAID SUGGESTION WAS REVIEWED AT TOP LEVEL OF MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AFTER CONSULTATION WITH NORWAY'S NATO MISSION.

2. PRINCIPAL GROUNDS FOR THE NEGATIVE DECISION WAS THE PRACTICAL PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING FOR ADDITIONAL INVITEES TO VIEW THE EXERCISE. FREIHOW SAID MOD STATED IT COULD NOT ENLARGE INVITEE GROUP FURTHER. IT NOW CONSISTS OF CSCE OBSERVERS AND FOUR NATO COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO HE SAID WERE INVITED BY THE DEFENSE MINISTER. THESE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY COUNCIL MEMBERS WE HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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JUST SEEN MENTIONED IN USNATO 4365.

3. WHILE LOGISTIC CONSIDERATIONS WERE OVERRIDING, FREIHOW SAID OTHER PRACTICAL PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE ALSO WEIGHED IN GOVERNMENT'S THINKING. HE REPEATED SOME OF THE CONCERNS CITED EARLIER (OSLO 3738). THE MOD SAID IT HAD NO PRECEDENT OR MECHANISM WITHIN BILATERAL EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK FOR INVITING FOREIGN OFFICIALS TO EXERCISES HERE. NORWEGIANS FELT THEY DID NOT HAVE GOOD RATIONALE FOR INVITING THE DANES WHICH DANES WOULD NOT INTERPRET AS INTERFERING IN THEIR AFFAIRS. THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRECEDENT SETTING NATURE OF THE INVITATION TO FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARIANS. THEY DID NOT FEEL THEY HAD ADEQUATE TIME TO CONSULT WITH THEIR STORTING. THERE WAS SOME DISAGREEMENT OVER WHETHER THEY NEEDED TO CONSULT WITH OTHERS IN THE NATO POLITICAL COMMITTEE ABOUT THEMATTER.

4. WE EXPRESSED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE NORWEGIANS ABOUT THE DECISION.

5. COMMENT: WHILE LOGISTICAL AND TIMING PROBLEMS WERE PROBABLY KEY TO NORWEGIAN DECISION, WE BELIEVE THEY VIEWED THE QUESTION OF A POSSIBLE PRECEDENT AND LACK OF TIME FOR FULL CONSULTATION WITH ALL PARTIES AS SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO THEM IN MAKING A POSITIVE DECISION. THE NORWEGIANS ARE VERY CAREFUL IN THE SECURITY FIELD TO TAKE NO INITIATIVES UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN FULLY DISCUSSED WITH AND APPROVED BY ALL THE APPROPRIATE PARTIES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEY CAN BE PERSUADED TO TAKE UP THIS ISSUE AGAIN NOW, AND WE THINK THAT THEY WILL WANT FULL DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL, VERY LIKELY AT NATO HEADQUARTERS, BEFORE THEY WOULD EXTEND SUCH INVITATIONS IN THE FUTURE.

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